

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0007] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0007] Thus, it is difficult to achieve such a classified seat belt alert system which assures the occupant's correct recognition of each audible alert.

Please replace paragraph [0015] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0015] A fourth aspect of the invention relates to a method of providing a vehicle occupant with a first audible alert corresponding to a first warning level or a second audible alert corresponding to a second warning level that is higher than the first warning level, to alert the vehicle occupant that his or her seat belt is unbuckled. In this method, during the second audible alert, an alert chime corresponding to the first ~~waning~~warning level is sounded before an alert chime corresponding to the second warning level.

Please replace paragraph [0018] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0018] FIG. 1 is a block diagram schematically showing the configuration of a seat belt warning apparatus 100 of the exemplary embodiment. Referring to this drawing, the seat belt warning apparatus 100 includes a buzzer 102 for generating an alert sound, an ECU (Electric Control Unit) 101 that activates an audible alert in response to detecting the seat belt being unbuckled, and an warning light 103 that is on or blinks while the seat belt remains unbuckled. The warning light 103 may individually be provided for each of the driver seat and the navigator seat.

Please replace paragraph [0020] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0020] FIG. 2A is a view schematically illustrating generation pattern of an alert sound via the buzzer 102 to sound a "first alert chime", while FIG. 2B is a view schematically illustrating a generation pattern of the same chime to sound a "second alert chime". Unless otherwise specified, the first alert chime corresponds to the primary audible alert, whereas the second alert chime corresponds to the secondary audible alert.

Please replace paragraph [0030] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0030] ~~FIG 3~~FIG. 3 is a timing chart illustrating one exemplary case for explaining the operation of the seat belt warning apparatus 100. Referring to the chart, the ignition 104 is turned to the ON position at time t1. Since the driver seat belt buckle switch 105 and the navigator seat belt buckle switch 106 are both OFF at this time, namely the driver seat belt and the navigator seat belt both remain unbuckled, the ECU 101 activates the primary audible alert by sounding the first alert chime via the buzzer 102. To comply with the above-stated US regulation, this audible alert continues for 6 seconds and ends at time t2.

Please replace paragraph [0034] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0034] Subsequently, the driver seat belt is unbuckled and the vehicle speed reaches 15 Km/h at time t6. However, this ~~doe~~does not satisfy any deactivating condition, so that the ECU 101 continues the second alert chime.

Please replace paragraph [0046] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0046] Although the navigator seat belt is buckled at time t20, the first alert chimes ~~continues~~continue since the driver seat belt still remains unbuckled. The second alert chime starts at time t21 which is 30 seconds after time t19, and the secondary audible alert is timed out at time t22 which is 90 seconds after time t21.